

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this case. Claims 1 and 3 are amended and new Claims 4-20 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1 and 3 and new Claims 4-20 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Moore (U.S. Patent No. 3,203,109); Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Moore in view of Rooney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,741,868, hereinafter “Rooney”); and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Moore in view of Thal (U.S. Patent No. 2,087,788).

The specification is amended to correct informalities.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Moore, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, “A double drum type drum dryer comprising a liquid splash and scatter preventing equipment having a cooling function *provided in a location above a portion of a liquid concentration section between drums.*”

The outstanding Office Action cited knives or doctor blades 42 of Moore as “liquid splash and scatter preventing equipment.” However, Figure 1 of Moore clearly shows that knives or doctor blades 42 of Moore are located over the peripheral portions of drums, beyond the axes 25 of the drums 20. Thus, knives or doctor blades 42 of Moore are not located above *any* portion of a *liquid concentration section between the drums.*

Accordingly, knives or doctor blades 42 of Moore cannot be “a liquid splash and scatter

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 9, line 11 to page 12, line 2.

preventing equipment” as defined in amended Claim 1. As Moore does not teach each and every element of Claim 1, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Moore and is patentable thereover.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 2 as unpatentable over Moore in view of Rooney, it is noted that Claim 2 is dependent from Claim 1, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Rooney does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Moore. Specifically, double drum dryer 96 of Rooney does not include “a liquid splash and scatter preventing equipment” as defined in amended Claim 1. The only element shown above the drums of double drum dryer 96 of Rooney is the outlet of feed line 88.² Further, the condenser 176 mentioned in column 5 of Rooney is *not* located in the double drum dryer 96 of Rooney.³ Thus, Rooney does not teach or suggest “a liquid splash and scatter preventing equipment having a cooling function provided in a location *above a portion of a liquid concentration section between drums.*” Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 2 is patentable over Moore in view of Rooney.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 3 as unpatentable over Moore in view of Thal, it is noted that Claim 3 is dependent from Claim 1, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Thal does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Moore. Specifically, double drum dryer B of Thal does not include “a liquid splash and scatter preventing equipment” as defined in amended Claim 1. The only element shown above the drums of double drum dryer B of Thal is the inlet opening 22.⁴ Further, the heating steam connection 36 and condensate outlet 37⁵ cited in the outstanding Office action (a) are *not* located above the drums 24 and 25 of Thal but

²See Figure 1 of Rooney.

³See Figure 2 of Rooney.

⁴See Figure 1 of Thal.

⁵See Thal, right column of page 2, lines 10-42 and the left column of page 4, lines 59-75.

instead are *inside* the drums, and (b) *heat* the drums.⁶ Thus, Thal does not teach or suggest “a liquid splash and scatter preventing equipment *having a cooling function* provided in a location above a portion of a liquid concentration section between drums.” Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 3 is patentable over Moore in view of Thal.

New Claims 4-8 are supported by the specification at page 9, line 11 to page 12, line 2. As new Claims 4-8 depend from Claim 1, Claims 4-8 are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

New Claims 9-15 are supported at least by original Claims 1-3 and the specification at page 9, line 11 to page 12, line 2. New Claim 9 recites “a liquid splash and scatter preventing passage *above a portion of the liquid concentration section*, said liquid splash and scatter preventing passage configured to cool the liquid in contact with said liquid splash and scatter preventing passage.” As noted above, none of Moore, Rooney, or Thal teach or suggest such a liquid splash and scatter preventing passage. Accordingly, Claim 9 (and Claims 10-15 dependent therefrom) is patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

New Claims 16-20 are supported at least by original Claims 1-3 and the specification at page 9, line 11 to page 12, line 2. New Claim 16 recites “means for preventing liquid splash and scatter *located above a portion of the liquid concentration section*, said means for preventing liquid splash and scatter for cooling a liquid in contact with said means for preventing liquid splash and scatter.” As noted above, none of Moore, Rooney, or Thal teach or suggest such means for preventing liquid splash and scatter. Accordingly, Claim 16 (and Claims 17-20 dependent therefrom) is patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

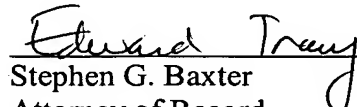
⁶See Figure 2 of Thal.

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Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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